FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Present and Future T.S.A. Members:

For those of you who have not received the sad news: Peggy Gilfoy, the President of T.S.A. and Curator of Textiles and Ethnographic Arts at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, died suddenly in November. We are shocked and grieved by this untimely loss. A Memorial in honor of Peggy has been established at the Museum she served for so many years. Your contribution can be sent directly to the Indianapolis Museum of Art, 1200 West 38th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46208. Checks can be made out to the Museum, but please include a note directing your contribution to the Peggy Gilfoy Memorial.

Had it not been for Peggy’s efforts, T.S.A. would not have been founded. The publication of papers given at our first general meeting in Minneapolis will be dedicated to her.

T.S.A. is continuing to function and grow thanks to the generous offers of help from each of our officers and many others as well. As the Vice President, I will act as President. We ask for you patience during this transitional period which we hope will be brief. I expect we will have an efficient operating system within a few months. Please do no hold back if you have suggestions.

Many people have been working behind the scenes, but I wish to thank these individuals in particular: John Vollmer for his warm eulogy for Peggy plus Clarita Anderson and Arlene Cooper for producing this Newsletter.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

Milton Sonday
IN MEMORIUM, PEGGY STOLZ GILFOY (1936-1988)

Monday morning's first telephone call brought news that would profoundly affect all of us in the textile field. For a time, numbness provided a shield from the pain, the loss, and the frustration of the situation; yet the consciousness was flooded with memories—snatches of conversations, bits of correspondence, a recipe for West African ground nut stew...

As I remember Peggy, I am repeatedly drawn to events of the Textile Society of America symposium. In retrospect, these were "for the last time;" but which nonetheless characterize a twelve year friendship and serve to mark the accomplishments of a most remarkable individual. They offer a somewhat unconventional in memorium, which, I think, Peg would approve.

One evening we discussed the need for TSA constitution and bylaws over beer and nachos. It seems strange now, but most of my best conversations with Peg involved food. My first visit to Indianapolis was made memorable by a family dinner at which the previously-mentioned ground nut stew was served. In fact, the plan for a Textile Society of America was hatched over dinner a Washington restaurant in 1981. Peg and I and two colleagues picked up the threads up the threads of the day's address at the Irene Emery Roundtable on Museum Textiles. We were concerned with the lack of a forum for people in all disciplines who work with textiles—a forum to meet and discuss issues of mutual interest. As we talked a plan evolved. With a contribution of $10 from each present, we formed WHATS—a.k.a. Western Hemisphere Association of Textile Specialists. I agreed to organize and mail an announcement; Peg would work on the constitution. For a number of reason WHATS didn't get off the ground, although we did hold one meeting in a Philadelphia hotel room with cokes, beer and chips Peg had thoughtfully provided.

It was this draft constitution and its accompanying file folder that Peg passed on to me in Minneapolis this past September. It is typical of Peg's attention to detail and concern for the efficient running of things that she had carried the file with her in the first place. Secondly, she made it a priority for TSA and without much prompting found a volunteer (me) to work on it.

How fitting that seven years later, when TSA came into being, Peg was the unanimous choice to be the founding president. After a long history of leading local and national organizations, Peg set the tone of collegiality and professionalism for TSA. More importantly her personal touch and dedication assured things would get done. She instilled confidence as she moved between various interest groups—a reflection of her own background as curator, administrator, teacher, musician, wife and mother.

Among the unofficial, unscheduled events of the TSA conference was the outing organized by the "shop-'til-you-drop" bunch to and from Bank's Minneapolis's bargain emporium. As Peg crowded into the back of the Edward Stack's overcrowded van, she observed there was always a need for informal times at conferences to get to know your colleagues better. Folding oneself into the smallest possible bundle to make room for "one more" is just the kind of "getting to know one's colleagues better" that Peg advocated.

This sense of humor, the willingness to laugh, even at one's own expenses are aspects of the person we cherish. For Peg, the seriousness of living was tempered with levity. It gave a sense of proportion that also permeated her professional work. Who else could come up with an exhibition title like "A Loomful of A Animals", or the profoundly evocative "Patterns of Life" for an exhibition of West African strip weaving?

Peg belonged to the second generation of professional American curators who founded textile departments in museums. She was a generalist by necessity, a specialist by training, a realist by choice. She was a champion of the most exacting standards of academic performance and museum practice. With her distinctive flare and a sense of humor she was always a most persuasive spokesperson, encouraging others to do a little bit more.

At the Indianapolis Museum of Art she applied her expertise in African art history to the weaving technology and fabrics of Western and Central Africa. When she assessed what would be the most fitting kind of contemporary costume collection, she opted to build in-depth holdings of Indiana-born designers. The specialist in Asante weaving also became the expert on Norell and Blass. Recognizing the significance of
the ethnographic textiles from Indonesia and North Africa at the IMA she went about finding the resources to study and publish these collections. Through her efforts the pieces were properly catalogued, exhibited in Indianapolis and often included in major exhibitions organized by others.

During the planning for the Minneapolis meeting, Peg noted the lack of a paper on African textiles. Quite typically she stepped in to fill the gap herself. Her paper on West Africa weaving, like so many of her other contributions, urged us to see beyond the surface, to probe and search for meaning, to find a context for the object that makes it comprehensible and accessible.

She used making of larger clothes from narrow strips of banded fabric, in which the Euro-American textile patterning vocabulary compartmentalization and symmetry are not applicable, to demonstrate an African theme of improvisation. In myth and music, as well as in textile design, rhythmic placement, improvisation and layering of information are combined with great sophistication. There is scant division between the working world and the spiritual, the procurement of food and maintenance of order; relating history and group entertainment. Art is life. The function of artistic structure and the ten tenets of life are often interwoven.

She showed us her most intimate self—one who had mastered many ways of communicating—a signer for the deaf, a concert musician, an academic.

It is easy to assess the professional accomplishments: the articles, the exhibitions, the collection building. It is harder to capture the spirit, the friendship, the dedication. These intangible, but more significant, qualities are the lasting testimony to the person. Each of us misses this very special friend; her passing as a tragedy, and a great loss to the Textile Society of America. We remember the person and her gifts to us; we honor Peggy's memory and through us she contributes to a common future.

John Vollmer
WHAT'S NEW

CALIFORNIA

Through March 26, 1989 at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles: "To Comfort and Clothe: Quilts and Quilted Objects from the Permanent Collection." From February 16 to April 3, 1989, "An American Sampler: Folk Art from the Shelburne Museum," including quilts. Two exhibitions which will follow feature recent acquisitions from the Department of Costume and Textiles.

Also in Los Angeles, the Sunday afternoon lecture program at the UCLA Museum of Cultural History includes the following textile related programs: March 5, "The Fabric of Bukhara: Craft and Society Along the Silk Route;" May 6, "A Stitch in Time: Ancient and Modern Chiapas Mayan Costume and Design;" and June 4, "Clothes for the Living, Costumes for the Dead: Weaving and Dying Among the Dogon of Mali."

At the Craft and Folk Art Museum in San Francisco until February 26, 1989: "Minority Costume and Textiles of Guizhov Province, People's Republic of China" which includes 180 objects showing the variety of textile techniques from the Guizhov Province in Southwest China.


DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA


ILLINOIS

"Lissy Funk--A Retrospective," an exhibition of embroidered wall hangings by the Swiss artist inaugurated the Elizabeth F. Cheney galleries of the Department of Textiles at the Art Institute of Chicago which will be mainly devoted to rotating installations of 20th century textiles. The exhibition which continues through February 5, 1989 was organized by Christa C. Mayer Thurman and the illustrated catalogue has a lead essay by her. The new gallery, with an additional 1500 square feet of space adjacent to the existing Agnes F. Allerton Textile Gallery and the Department of Textiles Study room, increases the Textile Department's total exhibition space by fifty-seven per cent and includes a seminar-exhibition area. "Recent Textile Acquisitions Since 1982 from the Permanent Collection" will open in mid-March and continues to mid-June 1989, followed by "Textile Masterpieces from the Permanent Collection," mid-July to mid-October,
In addition, the following exhibitions from the permanent collection are among those being planned for 1989 through 1991: "Printed Fabrics" opening November 1989; "Coverlets and Quilts" opening March 1990; "20th Century Textiles" opening November 1990; and "Needlework opening March 1991.

IOWA

A National Symposium and Exhibition on Textile Arts of the Regions of India will be presented by the Octagon Center for the Arts in cooperation with the College of Design at Iowa State University in March and April 1989. The Symposium will feature scholars and craftsmen from India and the United States. Tools and samples will be displayed along with step by step illustrations of the actual processes, and a catalogue will document the regions of India and their textile crafts. After its showing at The Octagon the exhibit will be available for touring to other galleries. For information about the Symposium, the exhibition, the catalogue for the touring exhibit, write to Textiles of India, The Octagon Center for the Art, 427 Douglas Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010 or call (515) 232-5331.

MARYLAND


The Seventh Annual Conference of Textiles, co-sponsored by Ars Textrina and the Babbage Center will be held at the University of Maryland at College Park, June 23 to June 24, 1989. The theme of the invited papers is "Textile Technology". Invited speakers include Adrienne Hood, K. C. Jackson and M. Hann, Alan Newton, Karen Jensen Rutherford, and Lambertus van Zelst. The conference is seeking contributed papers of original research relative to the history, theory, practice, and development of textile knowledge. Contributed papers will be refereed. Scholars should send an abstract with a minimum of one typewritten page and a maximum of two typewritten pages. If selected for presentation at the conference, the abstract will be used in the conference brochure. Selected contributed papers will be allocated 20 minutes. Deadline for contributed papers is April 1, 1989. Contact Dr. Clarita Anderson or Dr. Benham Pourdeyhimi, (301) 454-2141.

A Post Conference Symposium on Computer Applications will be held on June 26, 1989. During the morning session, a discussion of computer applications in textiles and other related fields will be presented by University of Maryland faculty and other scholars. The afternoon session will consist of a workshop and demonstration of special software applications, i.e., artifact data base management, weave structures, image analysis/fiber analysis, and other related topics. The workshop will be limited to 30 participants and the cost is $50.00. Contact Clarita or Benham at (301) 454-2141.

At the Art Gallery of the University of Maryland at College Park from March 27 to April: "American Tapestry Weaving Since The 1930's, a comprehensive exhibition featuring 37 artists, acknowledging the influence of European tapestry traditions on American weavers and documenting the historical importance and artistic impact of tapestry weaving in the United States. There is an illustrated catalogue. The Art Gallery is located in the Art-Sociology Building. The hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday evening until 9 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free. In conjunction with the exhibition, the Art Gallery is sponsoring a 2 day symposium, March 31 and April 1 on the College Park campus. In addition to the program of papers and illustrated lectures, there will be a panel discussions, video programs, and actual weaving demonstrations. Contact Canthi Wayne (301) 454-2763 or Courtney Shaw (301) 454-2065.

MISSISSIPPI

From April 1 to September 5, 1989 at the Mississippi State Historical Museum at Jackson, "Mississippi Homespun: Nineteenth Century Textiles and the Women Who Made Them."
NEW MEXICO

**Museum of International Folk Art, the Museum of New Mexico** at Santa Fe, "Behind the Mask in Mexico," 250 festival masks, through September 17, 1990.

Until April 1989, **Textile Arts Gallery**, Santa Fe: "Textiles for the Connoisseur" by appointment only. Call (505) 983-9780.

Recursos de Santa Fe, an independent non-profit education center will present a symposium, "Fibers of the Southwest: on fabrics and fibers in Southwestern United States and Mexico, October 17 to 22, 1989, at the School of American Research and Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe. Speakers will include Mildred Constantine, Clara Lee Tanner, Joe Ben Wheat, and Andrew H. Whiteford.

NEW YORK

At the **Cooper-Hewitt Museum**, New York: "Purses, Pockets, Pouches," a survey of textile techniques used to make bags dating from the 1600's to today, through March 5, 1989. The Cooper-Hewitt Programs Department is offering three all-day workshops in conjunction with the exhibition: January 27, "Victorian Evening Bags; February 3 or 4, "Beaded Knitted Purses;" February 10 or 11, "Canvas Embroidery Pouches." The Programs Department is also presenting three Monday evening lectures, beginning February 7. In addition it will sponsor an all-day seminar to be held at the Alliance Francaise on June 15: "A Taste for History: Fashion and Furnishings in 19th Century France."

**The Fashion Institute of Technology** has announced acquisition of the journal, The Textile Booklist, which it will publish quarterly, beginning in late spring, 1989. Under its new editor and publisher, Richard Martin, Dean of Graduate Studies and Executive Director of the Shirley Goodman Research Center, The Textile Booklist will include specialized annotated bibliographies and research essays in fashion history and related disciplines.

**New York Rug Society** lectures (all at 7 P.M., at 422 E. 76th Street, third floor) include: February 8, Cornelia Wyaux, "The Use and Lore of Indigo in the Middle East;" March 1, James Opie, "The Origin of 'S' Designs and Other Common Motifs in Tribal and Village Rugs;" April 5, Daniel Walker, "Classical Persian Carpets;" May 4, Raoul (Mike) Tschebull, "Bidjov-Patterned Rugs from the Eastern Caucasus." Inquires should be directed to Sally Sherrill, New York Rug Society, 155 E. 72nd Street, New York, New York 10021.

OHIO

The Textile Department at the **Cleveland Museum of Art** is undergoing renovation of its storage and conservation facilities; no new exhibitions are planned until next fall. Some 18th century material and lace are on display in the interim.

**Central High School**, Columbus: "Son of Heaven: Imperial Arts of China," loans from several collections in China, March 1 to September 4, 1989. For tickets, call (800)535-5900, for information, call (800)282-5393.

**Kent State University Museum**, Kent: "Chinese Blue and White Porcelain and Textiles" dating from 1600 to 1900; "Zuber Wallpaper," new wallpaper made from 1835 blocks.

ONTARIO

**The Museum for Textiles**, Toronto, a non-profit educational institution incorporated in 1975, will be installed in new and greatly expanded quarters with an expected public opening date of May 18, 1989. The new premises, 24,000 square feet of space on five floors of a hotel and condominium complex at 55 Center
Avenue just north of City Hall, will include exhibition galleries, a conservation lab, an auditorium and member's lounge, a library, offices, and accessible storage. The collection includes important textiles from Indonesia, Central Asia, India, South and Central Europe, and included garments, household decorations, animal covers, and ceremonial cloths. Of particular note is the establishment of a Contemporary Gallery reserved for the display and documentation of work by living international fiber artists; its opening exhibition will be "Directions: From Historical Sources." The opening exhibition in the West Gallery will be "Heaven on Earth: Textiles of Central Asia."

**PENNSYLVANIA**

At the Allentown Art Museum, Allentown: "Resist Print Textiles," fifteen to twenty examples, including recent acquisitions.

**QUEBEC**

Through February 26, 1989 at the Marsil Museum, "Saint Lambert: Reflections on Art Deco," including textiles from the museum's collection and from four other Canadian museums.

**RHODE ISLAND**


**VIRGINIA**


We would like to thank the editors of the various newsletter from whom we gleaned information. We urge all of you to see that we are provided directly with your press releases, newsletters, etc. so that we may report your news in a timely and efficient manner. Please send your WHAT'S NEW items to Arlene Cooper.

**OBITUARY**

We are saddened to learn of the death of FLORENCE LEWIS MAY, the curator emeritus of textiles for the Hispanic Society of America's museum in Manhattan and author of a number of books, died of multiple myeloma, a form of cancer on September 6 at Arnot-Ogden Memorial Hospital in Elmira, New York. She was 89 years old and lived in Elmira.

Mrs. May, who could neither hear nor speak, was active in the affairs of Gallaudet College in Washington, a school for the deaf. She wrote *Rugs of Spain and Morocco* (1977), *Silk Textiles of Spain: Eighth to Fifteenth Century* (1939), among other books. At the time of her death she was finishing a second volume of *Silk Textiles of Spain." (Reprinted from the New York Times)
CIETA

AS A TSA MEMBER
You are invited to attend the 13th General Assembly of CIETA (Centre International d'Etude des Textiles Anciens). The conference will take place October 2-5, 1989, hosted by The Art Institute of Chicago. The sessions will begin on Monday afternoon, October 2, 1989 and will continue through Wednesday afternoon, October 4th, 1989. Optional tours will be offered the afternoon of Thursday October 5, 1989. Monday evening you are on your own. Tuesday evening, the Department of Textiles will host a special opening and behind-the-scenes tours of the enlarged facilities of the Department, followed by a reception. Wednesday evening a banquet is being planned to take place in the Adler-Sullivan Stock Exchange Room at the Art Institute with entertainment. Participating in this conference will provide you with a unique opportunity to meet international colleagues. Details and registration forms will be included in the next TSA Newsletter.

POSITIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, TEXTILES AND DESIGN, School of Family Resources and Consumer Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is seeking an Academic Curator for the Helen Allen Textile Collection. For further information contact Dr. Beverly Gordon, Director, Helen Allen Textile Collection, 1300 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706. Beverly may be reached at (608) 262-2051 or 262-2651. The deadline is March 1, 1989 or until filled. The University of Wisconsin-Madison is an equal opportunity employer.

1988 SYMPOSIUM PAPERS

TSA is planning to publish the papers given at the first bi-annual meeting in Minneapolis. The papers will be reproduced by quick copy and will be dedicated to Peg Gilfoyle's memory. Those who attended the conference will receive them as part of their registration fees. Those who were unable to attend the meeting will be able to purchase the papers for $15.00 including postage and handling. Please place your orders with our corresponding secretary, Suzanne Baizerman, 2236 Commonwealth Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108.

TSA BOARD MEETING

The 1989 TSA Board Meeting will be held on Friday, June 23, 1989 at 1:00 p.m. in the Department of Textiles and Consumer Economic's Conference Room. This is prior to the 7th Annual Textile Conference.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE TEXTILE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The purpose of the Textile Society of America is to provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of information including the historic, cultural, socioeconomic, artistic, and technical aspects of textiles. We welcome your membership.

To promote these aims, the SOCIETY will:
1. hold conferences and/or seminars for the dissemination of relevant information at least every other year,
2. distribute a newsletter citing exhibitions, publications, acquisitions, scholarly inquiries and items of interest to the membership, and
3. encourage interest in the study of textiles through cooperation with other organizations that have similar or related interests.
The annual dues are $25.00 (US $). Make checks payable to the TEXTILE SOCIETY OF AMERICA and send them to our membership secretary, Beverly Gordon. The membership year is from September 1 to September 1.

Please send the following information with your membership dues:
1. Name,
2. Institution,
3. Address,
4. Phone: work and home,
5. Particular interest within the field of textiles.

TEXTILE SOCIETY OF AMERICA 1990 CONFERENCE

Those of you who were unlucky enough to miss the Minneapolis meeting, please make plans to join us at the September 1990 meeting in Washington, D.C.. It will be hosted by Mattiebelle Gittinger and Rita Adrosko and the theme of the meeting will be TEXTILES IN TRADE. The call for papers and other information is on the last page of the newsletter. It should be a very exciting meeting. Do plan to attend and VOLUNTEER to help our busy hosts.

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

The absolute deadline for news is May 15th and December 15th.

The newsletter needs a masthead and TSA needs a logo. We invite all of you to submit your designs, preferably camera ready, to Clarita Anderson.

We will gladly print letters to the editors but they must be signed.

We plan to publish titles and reviews of new books, catalogs, and articles that will be of interest to our members. Please send complete bibliographic information and/or a two paragraph review of the title.

The next issue of the TSA Newsletter will be sent only to members.

Please send all news for WHAT'S NEW to Arlene Cooper.

Please send all other items for the newsletter to Clarita Anderson.

Please send all complaints to Milton Sonday or to the appropriate editor. BE NICE!

The newsletter is published by the Department of Textiles and Consumer Economics, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. We all owe the department and the staff a large vote of thanks.
MEMBERSHIP AND MAILING LISTS

I have tried to reconstruct the paid membership list from the original mailing lists, conference attendees', photocopied cancelled checks (reduced to accommodate sixteen checks to the page), and available application forms. The checks were very difficult to read and I am sure there are errors in your labels. There are a number of checks from businesses, organizations, and bank drafts that did not include the name of the member. Your mailing label will contain an asterisk if you are a member. If your name does not contain an asterisk and you are a member, please contact Beverly Gordon. If your label has an asterisk and you are not a member, please notify Beverly, preferably with a check. If your label is incorrect, please contact me with the corrections. If you receive a newsletter and are not a member, we encourage you to become one. Will Guy Stresser Pean please send us his address so we may send him a newsletter.

Clarita Anderson

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TEXTILES IN TRADE
A SYMPOSIUM

September 14-16, 1990
Washington, D.C.

The Textile Society of America will address the topic Textiles in Trade. The three-day meeting, to convene at the Smithsonian Institution September 14, 15, and 16, 1990, will address the topics in the format of panels structured about a common theme, as independent research papers, and as research in progress. In addition, modest facilities will be available for visual presentations of problems related to independent research projects to be presented in the so-called "poster board" format.

CALL FOR PANELS. We invite scholars interested in organizing a panel of 4 to 6 speakers to submit the topic and list of proposed panelists with working titles of the papers. We anticipate different panels will address issues related by geography or theme, but do not limit these to specific areas of the globe.

CALL FOR INDEPENDENT PAPERS. Scholars not participating in a panel may propose a paper for presentation. If several of these align topically, we will try to place these speakers within a panel format. Presentations should be approximately 20-25 minutes.

NOTICE TO CALL FOR SHORT PRESENTATIONS. When the number of topical panels is known, we will arrange time for the presentation of 10 minute research-in-progress reports. We will call for these in January 1990 and accept presentations on a first-come basis at that time. While it is hoped some of these topics may be related to trade, topics are at the speaker’s discretion.

PANEL FORMAT/INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PAPER FORMAT

Name:__________________________________________

Address:__________________________________________

Telephone number:__________________________________________

Would like to propose a panel/paper for The Textile Society of America 1990 symposium.

Title:

Brief description of the content:

Chairperson:

Panelists and working titles of papers:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Please return this form to Dr. Mattiebelle Gittinger, The Textile Museum, 2320 S Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20008